

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claim 1 is amended. Claim 6 is added. No new matter is submitted. Accordingly, entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of the rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: March 29, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 6 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a roller element bearing comprising an inner ring, an outer ring, and a series of rolling elements, a rolling surface of each rolling element in contact with a raceway surface formed in each of the inner and the outer rings, at least one of the raceway surfaces of the inner and outer rings and the rolling surfaces of the rolling elements being provided with a topography comprising recesses which are generally isolated by lands, the method comprising:

forming the recesses by shot peening the at least one of the surfaces; and

~~providing the recesses with lubricant.~~